

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KYOTO 00038 211338Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM USDEL KYOTO

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 36

C O N F I D E N T I A L KYOTO 38

EXDIS SECTO 93

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (FORD, GERALD R.

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL ARRIVAL STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT PRESIDENT FORD'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT IN
SEOUL:

BEGIN TEXT. MR. PRESIDENT, EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN:

I AM VERY PLEASED TO RETURN TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, OUR
FAITHFUL ALLY, ON A MISSION OF PEACE.

TWENTY-ONE YEARS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE I WAS HERE. I WAS
THEN A CONGRESSMAN. NOW I RETURN AS THE THIRD AMERICAN
PRESIDENT TO VISIT YOU WHILE IN OFFICE. PRESIDENT EISENHOWER
CAME IN 1952 AND 1960. PRESIDENT JOHNSON CAME IN 1966. THOSE
VISITS --AND MINE--DEMONSTRATE A CLOSE INVOLVEMENT OF
DIFFERENT AMERICAN ADMINISTRATIONS OVER A QUARTER OF A CENTURY.
THEY REFLECT THE SAME REALITY--OUR LONG AND FRIENDLY TIES TO THE
KOREAN PEOPLE.

WHEN I CAME IN 1953, I SAW A HEART-RENDERING SCENE. THE
REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAD BEEN RAVAGED BY WAR. YOU HAD MADE GREAT
SACRIFICES TO REPEL AGGRESSION. YOUR ECONOMY WAS IN RUINS. I
WAS DEEPLY SADDENED BY WHAT I SAW. BUT I WAS INSPIRED BY THE
DETERMINATION OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE TO REBUILD.

TODAY I AM HAPPY TO RETURN. I WANT TO SEE THE GREAT PROGRESS
THAT SO MANY HAVE DESCRIBED SO VIVIDLY. I WANT TO SEE FOR MYSELF
WHAT YOU HAVE BUILT UPON THE ASHES OF WAR.

I AM HERE TO REAFFIRM OUR FRIENDSHIP AND TO GIVE IT NEW LIFE

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AND MEANING.

NOTHING BINDS NATIONS CLOSER THAN TO HAVE FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE
FOR THE SAME CAUSE. TWO TIMES WE STOOD TOGETHER, HERE AND IN
VIETNAM, TO PRESERVE THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF ASIA AND THE WORLD.
WE CAN NEVER FORGET THIS.

THOUGH WE HAVE BEEN TOGETHER WITH YOU IN WAR, AMERICA'S
DEEPEST HOPE IS FOR A WORLD OF PEACE. LET US NOW JOIN TO PRESERVE
PEACE AND PREVENT ANY RECURRENCE OF HOSTILITIES. THAT IS OUR
CONTINUING COMMITMENT WHICH I TODAY REAFFIRM.

I SINCERELY THANK YOU FOR THIS HEART-WARMING WELCOME. MY
ONLY REGRET IS THAT MY WIFE IS NOT HERE AT MY SIDE. SHE SENDS HER
GREETINGS TO THE GREAT KOREAN PEOPLES. SHE LOOKS FORWARD TO
HEARING IN DETAIL FROM ME ABOUT THIS VISIT.

YOU WERE GRACIOUS TO INVITE ME. I AM PROUD TO COME HERE ON
THIS, MY FIRST OVERSEAS JOURNEY AS PRESIDENT.

I THANK YOU. END TEXT.

2. THE INTERPRETER SHOULD REALIZE THAT THE PRESIDENT MAY FROM
TIME TO TIME DEVIATE FROM A PREPARED TEXT, AND THE INTERPRETER
SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ADJUST AS APPROPRIATE.

KISSINGER

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